

Rapides Parish Louisiana Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

March 19, 2026

The Rapides Parish Local Emergency Planning Committee, hereafter referred to as LEPC, comprised of representation by and from the following disciplines:
Mr. Jeff Michiels, Rapides OEP/ LEPC Chairman; Ms. Sherry Ledington, Emergency Management - Rapides OEP; Captain Greg Timberlake, RPSO Hazmat; Sr. Tech - James Rougeou, LSP Hazmat; Mr. Dylan Derbonne, Fire Communications Chief (AFD); Parish President – Mr. Craig Smith, Parish Elected Official; Council Women - Lizzie Felter, City Elected Official; Ms. Jessica Trichel, Emergency Medical Services(Pafford EMS); Ms. Mary Tarver, Hospital Official (Christus St. Francis Cabrini); Ms. Patricia White, Public Health- (La. DHH/OPH Official); Mr. Steven Blackwell, Private Facility Representative(P&G); Mr. Joey Montalvo, Assistant District Administrator LA DOTD (Transportation); Ms. Destinee Kirkland, Community Group (ARC); Mr. Joe Hamner – Town of Ball; Mr. Roy Rachal, Rapides Parish School Board; Ms. Michele Keys, Private Facility Representative – (Hexion); Mr. Brian Johnson, Private Facility Representative (Boardwalk Pipelines) Mr. Ryan Spiller, Fire Representative(Office of the State Fire Marshall); Barrett Dezendorf, City of Alexandria Water; Tripp Dungan, Private Facility Representative (Cleco); Bobby Byrd, Private Facility Representative (Roy O Martin)

The above members met at the Rapides Parish LEPC, (Rapides Parish Communication District/Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness), 4216 Ellis St Alexandria, La. on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., for the transaction of business.

Mr. Michiels called the meeting to order and asked for roll call:

Present: Callie Bates, Lizzie Felter, Joe Hamner, Destini Kirland, Sherry Ledington, Nick Mikulas, Joey Montalvo, James Rougeou, Greg Timberlake, Patricia White,

Absent: Steven Blackwell, Bobby Byrd, Dylan Derbonne, Barrett Dezendorf, Tripp Dungan, Brian Johnson, Michelle Keys, Roy Rachel, Craig Smith, Ryan Spiller, Mary Tarver.

Also present: Teresa Basco, GOHSEP – Region 6, Doug Cramer, NWS- Lake Charles, Rebecca Beeman, Public Health (La. DHH/OPH Official)
Kendal Perkins, RPSB, Jessica Trichel, Pafford EMS,
Jacqueline Green, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Amanda Noles, Region 6 Healthcare Coalition/Cabrini

Mr. Michiels began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Michiels continued with the agenda starting with Old Business.

- Mr. Michiels asked for a motion to approve December 2nd, 2025, LEPC meeting minutes.
 - o ***Motion made by Mr. Hamner and seconded by Mr. Timberlake to adopt and approve the minutes of the December 2nd, 2025, LEPC Meeting. Members were provided with a copy prior to the meeting.***

- Reports:

- o Mr. Michiels provided the Committee with a Tier II Facility Report update for the 2025 reporting year.

Mr. Michiels advised that of the 532 reporting facilities in Rapides Parish, 192 reported to Rapides Parish LEPC, with many more reporting each day. The total number of facilities are based on the number of facilities that report to the State in Rapides Parish.

- Mr. Michiels briefed the committee on incidents reported by LSP within Rapides Parish since the last LEPC Meeting. Notable incidents are as follows.

- o 9 Notifications from LSP since the last LEPC Meeting.

- Mr. Michiels called upon Sr. Tech. James Rougeou for any notable reported Hazmat Incidents or situations since the last LEPC meeting on December 2, 2025, to which he advised that there was not any that he was aware of.

- Presentation:

- o Chairman Michiels recognized Mr. Doug Cramer of NWS Lake Charles, La. He briefed the committee on upcoming weather predictions from the NWS for spring and the upcoming Hurricane Season 2026
 - Mr. Cramer discussed the current drought conditions that are expected to expand and continue leading to a Hurricane season with less tropical activity due to the La Nina Conditions.
 - April 7th spotter class at Kees Park in Pineville.
 - Discussion - 2 confirmed tornadoes near Cheneyville since the last LEPC meeting that were EF-0 and EF-1.

- Presentation: (Continued)

- Chairman Michiels recognized Ms. Rebecca Beaman with LDH – OPH.
She discussed the Medical Counter Measure Exercise that occurred at the OPH in Alexandria on February 20th
She provided a demonstration for the committee with slides of the exercise.

- ❖ Discussion was held on current activities planned for 2026.

- Sunoco Ammonia Pipeline Mitigation Planning Meeting(s) with dates TBD and future Tabletop Drill

- ❖ Public Comments/Discussion

- No Comments/Discussion

No Further Business,

- Mr. Michiels asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Hamner, to adjourn meeting.

 6-30-26
Jeff Michiels, Chairman
Rapides Parish LEPC

 6-30-26
Greg Timberlake, Vice-Chairman
Rapides Parish LEPC